

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION

Consistent with the Examiner's instructions and to correct any inadvertent typographical errors, Applicant submits the following replacement paragraph for page 6, line 11 through page 7, line 13:

The extender 30 has one or more baffles 32, or rows of baffles 32, fixed within the interior of the extender 30. These baffles 32 extend from the inner sides of the extender 30 into the center of the extender 30 and cover a substantially amount of the internal diameter of the extender 30. The baffles 32 preferably traverse at least 50% of the internal diameter of the extender 30, with ~~the~~ a traversal amount ~~to~~ of from about 70% to about 80% more preferred. Baffles 32 may be arranged along a plurality of baffle levels within the extender 30, preferably inter-spaced at equal vertical distances with the extender 30, allowing each level to retain a given amount of the processing materials 100. As each level of baffles 32 retains a given amount of processing materials 100, the weight of the processing materials 100 remains segmented within the extender 30. Preferably, there are two or more baffles 32 positioned at an equal number of ~~lever~~ levels, i.e., each baffle 32 is at a different ~~lever~~ level, with from about 2 to about 7 baffles 32 more preferred. The baffles 32 within the extender 30 are suitably canted or slanted to effectively permit the transfer of processing material 100 from the interior of the extender 30 into the feed hopper 20 as the lower amounts of processing materials 100 are used. Preferred effective angles include, for example, angles ~~of~~ from about 30 degrees to about 60 degrees, more preferably from about 40 degrees to about 50 degrees, and most preferably an angle of about 45 degrees. Generally, the baffles 32 may substantially

cover a cross-sectional area of the extender 30. Baffle system have been disclosed in such patents as United States Patent No. 6,199,509 to Mostyn et al., which discloses several baffle configurations in Figures 2-6, as described at column 2, line 62 to column 3, line 35 in the Mostyn et al. Patent. The disclosure of the Mostyn et al. Patent with regard to the disclosure of baffles is herein incorporated by reference.

Consistent with the Examiner's instructions, and to correct an inadvertent typographical error, Applicant submits the following replacement paragraph for page 8, line 14 through page 9, line 18:

In operation, the above-described feed device 10 of the present invention is used to augment the quantity of processing material 100 of the feed hopper 20 for a given run in the manufacture of explosive materials 110. Once attached to the feed hopper 20, the extender 30 is filled with the appropriate processing materials 100 through the extender access 36 to a desired ~~lever~~ level. As the processing materials 100 within the feed hopper 20 are agitated, the processing materials 100 are fed out of the feed hopper 20 to the processing apparatus 102. With the removal of the processing materials 100 from the feed hopper 20, additional processing materials 100 are transferred from the extender 30 into the feed hopper 20. This augmentation of processing materials 100 extends the processing run times for manufacturing explosive materials 100 by increasing the amount of available processing materials 100 while not increasing the amount of weight of the processing materials 100 at the agitator 22, or elsewhere within the feed device 10 over the amount of each level of baffles 32. The processing materials 100 gravitates from the extender 30 into the feed hopper 20 through the access 24 at the top of the feed hopper 20. The baffles 32 within the extender 30 support the processing materials 100 which eliminates the bonding between the individual particles of the processing materials 100, which would occur from the weight of the particles themselves absent the presence of the baffles 32. As such, the transfer of the processing materials 100 from the feed hopper 30

to the processing apparatus 102, also conveys the processing materials 100 from the extender 30, through the access 24 at the top of the feed hopper 20, into the feed hopper 20. With additional levels of baffles 32 within the extender 30, additional amounts of processing materials 100 may be held within the extender 30 and conveyed into the feed hopper 20. Although the processing materials 100 are preferably conveyed into the feed hopper 20 through a gravity feed, vibration mechanisms and other like particle shifting devices may be used to augment the gravity feed process,